estimated at DM 176 million is being financed by KFW, a West German financing agency.

An additional unit of 210 MW to be added to the thermal power station II stage I (Zero unit) has been sanctioned at a capital cost of Rs. 397.26 crores. This unit is expected to be commissioned in 1992. The foreign exchange requirement of the project is proposed to be met from Hungarian-Italian sources. An agreement for credit upto US $ 200 million which would also cover the foreign exchange requirement of this project has been concluded with the Government of Hungary.

The future plans of NLC include the following new power projects:

Name of the project	Capacity	Currently estimated cost
Addition of 2x210 MW units to the first TPS at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu	2x210 MW	Rs. 732 crores
Banisnghsar TPS in Bikaner District of Rajasthan	2x210 MW	Rs. 496 crores
Third TPS at Neyveli Tamil Nadu . . .	3x500 MW	Rs. 2254 crores

Setting up of industries in Punjab

*200 SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to set up industries in Punjab during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have provided|propose to provide any incentives to these industries; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) The Government is giving all possible help to step up pace of industrialisation in Punjab. Punjab is given highest priority in licensing. While there had been on proposal under consideration of Central Government to set up new Central Public Sector Units in Punjab during the last six months, during 1989 (upto June) 22 letters of intent, 8 industrial licences, 96 delicensed industries registrations 2 DGTD registrations and 26 exempted industries registraitons have been issued.

Districts of Hoshiarpur, Sangrur Bhatinda Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Amritsar (as a special case) have been identified as Industrially Backward Districts. Enterpreneurs setting up industries in these districts are eligible fo priority in the grant of licences, concessional finance, concessions under the Income Tax Act, etc. No licence is required for investments made upto Rs. 50 crores in Industrially Backward Areas and Rs. 15 crores elsewhere subject to certain locational guidelines. They are also eligible for Central Investment Subsidy on the projects approved by State Level Committee|District Level Committee upto 30th September, 1988. Under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, an amount of Rs. 9.90 crores had been reimbursed to Punjab during the last 4 years for the units set up in the above mentioned districts as per details given below:

(Rs. in crores)

1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
2.80	2.28	2.22	2.60

Punjab has also been allocated two growth centres under the new scheme.

During the years 1985-86 to 1987-88, financial institutions have disbursed the following amounts to Punjab:—

Disbursed in crores (Rs.)

	Punjab	Total disbursed	%age
1985-86	109.13	4657.53	2.3
1986-87	164.82	5401.01	3.1
1987-88	262.66	6600.91	4

Floating of companies by Peerless General Finance and investment company

@1349. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company has floated three companies viz., Peerless Drive (Private) Limited, Peerless Developing Limited and Peerless Finance Service Limited;

(b) if so, to what extent the assets of the parent organisation have been utilised in setting up these companies;

(c) whether approval of the Central Government was sought in the matter; and

(d) if so, the specific areas in which these companies are supposed to function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

@Previously Unstarred Question 330 transferred from the 20th July, 1989.

Increase in the prices of cement

@@1350. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the withdrawal of levy quota of cement and dispensing with the fair price distribution of cement, the open market prices of cement have been soaring very high, much against expectations;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in open market cement prices registered so far since the withdrawal of levy quota, indicating the earlier and the latest prevailing prices; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken to protect the consumers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) There was an increase

@@Previously Unstarred Question 447 transferred from the 21st July, 1989.